GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:224
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004
ASSISTANCE TO SOLDIERS
Pingle Shri Devidas Anandrao;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance extended by the Government to the soldiers, who have become disabled in war and to those, who are still undergoing treatment;

(b) the total number of soldiers, who became disabled after the wars till date and the number of soldiers, who are still undergoing treatment;

(c) the type of assistance being provided by the Government;

(d) whether it is a fact that under the new Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Service Scheme, Government proposes to exclude the soldiers disabled in wars;

(e) whether it is also a fact that certain sections are not required to make any monetary contribution to become members of the scheme;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the reasons for denial of free medical facilities to the soldiers, disabled in war;

(h) whether the Government proposes to reconsider its decision; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (i): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO
(i) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 224 FOR 16.12.2004.

The soldiers injured in the battlefield are treated as battle casualties and granted War Injury Pension.

Disabled soldiers (battle casualties) of all operations (excluding Operation Vijay − Kargil) invalided/boarded out/prematurely released from service in low medical category are entitled to one time ex gratia grant of Rs. 1 lakh. The disabled soldiers injured during Operation Vijay-Kargil were entitled to ex-gratia payment from National Defence Fund ranging from Rs. 6 lakh to Rs. 3 lakhs depending upon the percentage of disability.

The disabled soldiers, who continue in service, are paid a grant from Army Central Welfare Fund depending upon the disability percentage as under :-

(a) 75% & above disability Rs. 30,000/-
(b) 50% to 74% disability Rs. 20,000/-
(c) Less than 50% disability Rs. 10,000/-

The disabled soldiers are also entitled to the following facilities :-

(i) 75% concession in 2nd class rail sleeper for self and dependent family members;

(ii) Free installation charges and 50% concession in rental charges on telephone connection;

(iii) The wards of disabled soldiers studying in government recognized/government aided schools, military/sainik schools are eligible to get reimbursement of tuition fees, hostel charges, books upto Rs.250/-, cost of uniform and clothing upto Rs.250/-

(iv) Loan assistance on liberalized terms under self employment schemes to set up tiny/small scale industries, small scale service enterprises, to undertake agriculture and allied activity and to set up khadi and village industries in rural areas;

(v) Reservation of limited seats in professional institutes, such as Medical Colleges and Indian Institutes of Technology through joint entrance examination.

(vi) Financial assistance from Raksha Mantri`s Discretionary Fund for house repair, marriage of daughter, medical treatment etc.

(vii) Mobility equipment upto Rs. 50,000/-, such as wheeled chair.

(viii) Allotment of Petrol Pump/Gas agency under 8% defence quota.

(ix) Officers disabled in the battlefield are entitled for 75% air travel concession on domestic flights.

The number of disabled soldiers boarded/invalided out after 15th August, 1947 is 5581. These soldiers were paid compensation under Army Central Welfare Fund and National Defence Fund (for Kargil operation).

The War disabled soldiers including battle casualties and battle accidents of Operation Parakram and on going counter-insurgency operations under the Northern Command and Eastern Command are admitted to various Military hospitals for active treatment/review/fitment or repair and replacement of artificial limbs. The total number of soldiers still admitted in Military hospitals is 113.

Medical facilities available to disabled solidiers :

Comprehensive medical care is provided to all disabled soldiers as and when required.

They also get treatment at paraplegic homes at Kirkee (Maharashtra) and Mohali (Punjab). They are provided artificial limbs by Artificial Limb Centres. Blind soldiers are provided psychological support to overcome the shock of blindness and imparted vocational training by St. Dunstan`s After Care Organisation, Dehradun.

Ex-servicemen`s Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) : All ex-servicemen including those disabled in wars who are in receipt of any pension, including disability pension, are permitted to join ECHS on payment of the prescribed contribution. The amount of contribution is based on basic pension of an individual which varies from Rs. 1800/- to Rs.18000/-. They will get free medical care for rest of their lives by making the one time contribution which may be paid in three consecutive instalments.

War widows are exempted from payment of contribution under ECHS.

All disabled soldiers who join the ECHS membership are entitled to utilize medical facilities available under ECHS for themselves and their dependents free of charge.

There has been no case of denial of free medical facilities by a military hospital to any war disabled soldier.